

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2019 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

## **Senate Bill 379**

BY SENATORS MAYNARD, AZINGER, CLINE, ROBERTS,

TARR, MARONEY, AND HAMILTON

[Introduced January 21, 2019; Referred  
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-7b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to permitting the county boards of education to include faith-based electives in classroom  
3 drug prevention programs.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

### **§18-2-7b. Programs in drug prevention and violence reduction.**

1 (a) In order for the schools to become healthy learning environments and to provide a  
2 strong defense against drug use and violence, the State Board of Education shall prescribe  
3 programs within the existing health and physical education program which teach resistance and  
4 life skills to counteract societal and peer pressure to use drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and shall  
5 include counselors, teachers and staff in full implementation of the program. The board shall also  
6 prescribe programs to coordinate violence reduction efforts in schools and between schools and  
7 their communities and to train students, teachers, counselors and staff in conflict resolution skills.  
8 The program shall be comprehensive, interdisciplinary and shall begin in elementary school.

9 (b) No later than the start of the 2018-2019 school year, a county board shall implement  
10 comprehensive drug awareness and prevention programs for students in grades K through 12 to  
11 receive instruction regarding the dangers of substance abuse. The purpose of the drug awareness  
12 and prevention program is to:

13 (1) Keep students from illegally using alcohol, tobacco or other drugs;

14 (2) Reduce or eliminate the incidence and prevalence of student's alcohol, tobacco and  
15 other drug abuse;

16 (3) Reduce the factors that place students at risk of abusing alcohol, tobacco or other  
17 drugs through school and a community based planning processes;

18 (4) Contribute to the development of school environments and alternative activities that  
19 are alcohol, tobacco and drug-free;

20 (5) Increase the knowledge and skills of students, staff and community members for

21 avoiding the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and drug use, and of blood borne pathogens;

22 (6) Actively involve staff, students, parents and community members in the development  
23 and implementation of the drug awareness and prevention program plans;

24 (7) Facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the risks to, duties of, and likely actions  
25 by law-enforcement officers when conducting investigations; and

26 (8) Instruct how to respond to an officer during a vehicular or other stop or police  
27 interaction, including problematic or dangerous action and behaviors that could result in a person  
28 being detained or arrested.

29 (c) The county board shall coordinate the delivery of instruction to meet the purposes of  
30 subsection (b) of this section with educators, drug rehabilitation specialists and law-enforcement  
31 agencies to periodically provide age appropriate student education on their experiences with the  
32 impacts of illegal alcohol and drug use.

33 (d) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, instruction required pursuant to §18-2-9 of  
34 this code in the subject of health education in any of the grades six through 12 as considered  
35 appropriate by the county board shall include at least 60 minutes of instruction for each student  
36 on the dangers of opioid use, the additive characteristics of opioids, and safer alternatives to treat  
37 pain.

38 (e) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, comprehensive drug awareness and  
39 prevention programs for students in grades K through 12 may include faith based electives for  
40 drug awareness in classrooms.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit county boards of education to include faith based electives in classroom drug prevention programs.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.